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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

11 October 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SUBJECT : Review of SNIE 11-6-57 for NESC

REFERENCE : IAC-M-298, 16 July 1957, item 2

1. New intelligence acquired since completion of SNIE 11-6-57, as reflected in the contributions to NIE 11-4-57 and the Board draft of the military section of that estimate, is likely to cause substantial changes in our estimates affecting Soviet gross capabilities for attack on the continental US in mid-1960, as follows:

a. Composition of Long-Range Bomber Force. Contributions indicate that the estimated composition of the Soviet long-range bomber force in mid-1960 may be considerably different from that given in SNIE 11-6-57. The number of BADGER jet medium bombers may be considerably in excess of the 700 previously estimated, while the number of BISON and BEAR heavy bombers may be considerably fewer than the 800 previously estimated. Such changes in composition would affect the over-all load-carrying capacity of the striking force and the tactics which could be employed in staging and carrying out the attacks.

b. Over-all Size of Long-Range Bomber and Tanker Force. The Board draft indicates that there may also be a reduction in the mid-1960 estimate of total Soviet strength in long-range bombers and tankers. Such a change would have a corresponding effect on the estimated scale of air attacks the USSR could launch against the US.

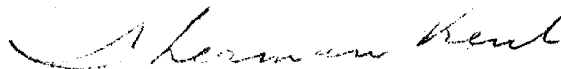
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c. Availability of ICBM. Contributions indicate that the estimated date of first operational availability of Soviet ICBMs may be earlier than 1960-1961 as previously estimated. Such a change would require inclusion of the ICBM in estimated Soviet intercontinental strike capabilities for mid-1960.

2. As a result of further analysis, there may also be a small increase in the number of Soviet missile-launching submarines given in SNIE 11-6-57 for mid-1960, but a small decrease in the number of nuclear-powered missile-launching submarines.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES



SHERMAN KENT  
Assistant Director  
National Estimates

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